



# W.A.R.M.

*Providing a Hand Up, not a Hand Out.*

Westerville Area Resource Ministry



## Emerson Liebert puts WARM on ice.

A commercial walk-in cooler/freezer - the kind grocery stores and restaurants employ to keep large quantities of food in deep freeze. Not having such a freezer had begun to handicap the WARM pantry. Why? Because suppliers offer the deepest discounts on meats and other perishables that are about to reach sell-by dates. Many times, WARM has had to scramble for off-site storage of suddenly acquired perishables - or worse - had to turn down large donations for lack of adequate refrigerator/freezer space.

In an effort to solve this deficiency, WARM Executive Director Scott Marier started looking for a way to purchase a commercial freezer. He negotiated with a local refrigeration company, along with a variety of local companies who would help install the system and was able to lower the anticipated costs from \$50,000 down to \$20,000.

Enter **Emerson Network Power's Liebert Services division** in Westerville. Liebert Services president **Frank Bibens** recalls, "The pantry had all these regular refrigerators lining the walls, gobbling up energy and limiting their capabilities."

Liebert Services has a community partnership with WARM, and employees run monthly food and supply drives and collect money for the organization, Bibens said. "They've really taken this partnership to heart," Bibens said of his employees. "We've really gotten engaged with WARM, and we're always looking for ways to give them a hand." The company pledged the \$20,000 for the freezer project.

The new 12' x 25' walk-in cooler/freezer reduces energy



Pictured with Scott from Liebert Services (L to R): Phil Arlinghaus, Vice President; Frank Bibens, President and Sandy Mercurio, Executive Assistant.

consumption while increasing the pantry's capacity to store perishables. Money for the commercial refrigerator is an especially meaningful gift, Bibens said, because it is one that will continue to help WARM serve its clients for decades. "It's a gift that's going to give for a long time," he said.

Scott Marier agrees, "This freezer represents a significant improvement in our ability to provide staples to increasing numbers of clients." Last year, WARM served 4,208 families, which was a 35-percent increase in the number of families served the previous year. The need continues to heighten and WARM anticipates its client list will grow another 20 percent in 2010.

*Does your organization have a cool idea that could help WARM achieve ever increasing service goals?  
Contact [Scott@warmwesterville.org](mailto:Scott@warmwesterville.org)*

*We're making a difference*



## A Sharp Career Change

**Michelle Sharp** knew she had to re-market herself once she was downsized from her position at Honda America in

April 2009. And the best way for her to reposition herself back into the job market was going to hinge upon a new set of career goals and career classes that would give her a competitive edge.

Through the WARM Steps To Overcome Poverty (STOP) Program, Michelle has teamed with Lynda Chambers to accomplish her goals. Michelle has since become a certified Customer Service Representative through a program offered by Henkels & McCoy. Then at the end of 2009, Michelle graduated from the Columbus Center of Excellence. Through this training program, Michelle extended her professional network to include Columbus City officials and Chamber of Commerce representatives.

"Michelle's story emphasizes the importance a positive attitude can have on a very upsetting situation," says Lynda. "Utilizing the WARM STOP program resources, Michelle was able to think outside the box to envision a new career and to take steps to broaden her knowledge and skills to make herself marketable again." At every step, WARM staff was there to guide and encourage Michelle toward job security and financial independence.

*Would you or your organization like to help sponsor career training or college classes for a WARM STOP client?  
Contact [Cheryl@warmwesterville.org](mailto:Cheryl@warmwesterville.org)*





## The Heart of our Mission

### Faith Covenant Church

Begun as Paul's Pantry in 1972, WARM nurtures partnerships with dozens of member churches throughout the area. This month, we give special thanks to the members of our partner **Faith Covenant Church**.

**Faith Covenant Church**, 3607 Dempsey Road in Westerville encourages personal discipleship through Sunday morning classes and worship opportunities. This family of believers strives to be formed and shaped by God's Word.

"We want our entire church family to be just that – a family," says **Pastor Tim Heintzelman**. "We are people who care about relationships: first our relationship with Jesus, then our relationships with each other in the church, and also our relationships with people in our greater community."

Pastor Heintzelman moved from Connecticut to Westerville in 1998 to lead Faith Covenant Church. His wife Colleen and children Moriah, Micah and Joshua share his passion for faith and service. Youth & Family Life **Pastor Kevin Diamond** is an Olentangy High School and Ohio State graduate. He and his wife Angie are committed to mentoring youth as they grow and mature in Christ.

In addition to passionately supporting the WARM ministry through volunteer hours plus financial and material support, the members of Faith Covenant Church are involved in other missions both near and far. From the Better Way Soup Kitchen to the AJ Enrichment Center; from children summer camp scholarships to Covenant World Missions and the annual Samaritan's Purse project to fill shoeboxes with necessities at Christmas time. Faith Covenant is the local church with a heart big enough to help the entire world.

*When your members think 'WARM', does only canned food come to mind? In addition to providing a choice food pantry, WARM programs offer financial counseling, budgeting, job training and career search assistance to struggling families. Perhaps our ministry aligns with goals your church membership has for 2010.*

*Contact Denise@warmwesterville.org and we'll meet with your group to examine this valuable community outreach resource.*

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## The need to feed – up 34.5 %

The WARM Choice Pantry FEED program served 4,208 families in 2009. In light of today's economic climate, it may be no surprise to you that this is a 34.5% increase over the previous year. But you may be surprised to know that in spite of this spike in need, not a single family in Westerville has been denied aid. The reason is because giving in Westerville has thus far allowed WARM to match growing needs. More than 130 tons of grocery supplies were collected and redistributed to our neighbors in crisis. And over 7,315 volunteer hours were logged at WARM. This last calculation does not even address countless volunteer hours spent in efforts conducted by our partner churches, donor offices, schools, civic and service clubs. As job insecurity and hunger continue to threaten our community, please keep your neighbors in your hearts and prayers as we embrace the new challenges 2010 has in store for us.

*The WARM 24-hour Donation Station at 175 East Broadway is always open to receive your canned good donations. For large-scale food drive assistance your group has free use of the WARM truck! To schedule contact Denise@warmwesterville.org*

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## Your Love Shows

The staff at WARM would like to share with you two expressions of thanks we recently received that illustrate so beautifully the depth of appreciation our clients feel for the hope this community gives them.

### ***This letter in response to our holiday food program:***

*...I would like to express my gratefulness and amazement for the organized, extensive, nice, warm, devoted care. ... A special thank you due to the dear gentlemen, too, who provided help in the parking lot for smooth parking. I was touched deeply by this loving attitude that I experienced. Thank God for it....*

### ***And this letter to a volunteer who knits colorful hats and scarves as annual holiday gifts for clients:***

*...My name is Michelle and this is my second year to have the pleasure of wearing your lovely warm, cozy hats. They are a blessing to me with the wonderful color, design and detail. Your love shows and I appreciate it....*

## Employing hope wherever we can.

Ohio jobless rates are the highest they've ever been – 10.7%. This economic reality affects WARM in two ways. Yes, unemployment rates increase WARM pantry services needs. But it also challenges our return-to-work programs. Although competition for jobs was at an all-time high in 2009, 43 WARM clients did find employment through our STOP (Steps to Overcome Poverty) program. And, of the clients who were placed in jobs over the last twelve months, 81% remain employed today. The average hourly wage for these newly-employed clients is \$11.20 per hour. This means an annual income of \$815,000 was generated last year by STOP clients. Most of this money was in turn reinvested in goods and services within our community. Call it Westerville's own stimulus plan.

*Could your organization partner with WARM to place clients in paying positions? Contact Lynda@warmwesterville.org*



Scott Marier, executive director of the Westerville Area Resource Ministry, has been named the 2009 Business Person of the Year by the Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce.

## *Marier named Business Person of the Year*

By JENNIFER NESBITT

Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM) executive director Scott Marier has been selected as the **2009 Business Person of the Year** by the **Westerville Area Chamber of Commerce**.

Marier has served as WARM's executive director for five years and has been actively involved in the chamber since joining the ministry.

According to a chamber press release, Marier was chosen because of his leadership and involvement in chamber activities and other community organization.

He has served as a chamber ambassador and participated on the **Evening of Elegance Committee**. He is involved in the **Westerville Sunrise Rotary**, the **Westerville City Schools** and the **American Center for Civic Character**, among other things.

"The positive impact of his changes is clearly defined in the capacity growth that WARM has accomplished under his leadership," said chamber selection committee chairman Chris Jones, president of Iron Pony Motorsports. "With the tight economy, his continual updating of best practices implementation at WARM is a wonderful asset to their clients and the Westerville community."

Marier said the chamber's decision to name him Business Person of the Year is a reflection on the community's commitment to help residents most in need.

"I am deeply humbled with the recognition. I believe it's a team award because it wouldn't be possible except for a great and committed staff, volunteers and the community," Marier said. "There are so many people in this city deserving of recognition."

Marier said he believes it's important for him to play an active role in the chamber and other community organizations because those organizations and the people involved help to make the community a better place to live, which is one of WARM's goals.

"Our participation in the chamber is part of community involvement. It takes everyone being involved to create a better city," he said. "I think (the award is) a testament to the Westerville community as a whole."

Marier [was] officially recognized with the award during the chamber's annual dinner at 6 p.m. January 26 at Crowne Plaza Columbus North.

The dinner's signature sponsor [was] **Associated Insurance Agencies**; the chairman's awards sponsor [was] **Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield**; and the Business Person of the Year sponsor [was] **Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital**.

Other finalists for the Business Person of the Year award were **David Forster**, of the **Party Store & More**; **Diana Garber**, of **Intuitive Concepts Inc.**; **Scott Hrabcak**, of **Real Living Business/Commercial Partnership**; and **Tom Campbell**, of **Quick Solutions Inc.**

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# Westerville – the *community* that *cares*

Officially, Westerville is one of the finest American cities. You made it so. Realtors and Rotarians. Office workers and students. Church members and government leaders. Retailers and corporate executives. In the past year, you have opened your hearts and extended your hands to assist your neighbors in need. The WARM Board of Directors and staff thanks each of you for embracing this community mission.

*“Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me.”* (Matthew 25:40)

